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Urban

District
Council



Report

on the

Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District

for the year ended

December 31st, 1960

Medical Officer of Health

L. RICH, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
11 WEST STREET, CONGLETON. Telephone 3655/6

Senior Public Health Inspector

N. A. ROGERS, M.A.P.H.I.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Sandbach Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1960 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Sandbach.

There was a small rise in the Estimated Population and a fall in the number of births with the number of deaths rising from 104 to 117.

This latter rise includes five more cases of Coronary Heart Disease. This condition has over the past few years been on the increase and is particularly distressing as it often strikes persons mainly in the middle age groups who apparently appear fit and well. There are numerous theories as to the cause of its greater prevalence and the most recent one that it is associated with a high content of saturated fatty acids in the diet now appears to be losing favour. What is well established is that it is more common in the highly developed countries than amongst primitive races ; and undoubtedly the stresses and strains of modern life coupled with the diminution in the amount of constant physical exercise needed in the modern way of life probably play a significant part. It has also been established statistically that heavy smoking and obesity are also contributing factors.

The prevalence of Infectious Disease has been small and no cases of Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria have occurred. In order to continue in this satisfactory position it is essential that a high rate of immunisation be maintained.

It was reported last year of the use of a Measles Vaccine which had been prepared as a result of the isolation of the Measles virus by Enders in the U.S.A. He incidentally was the man who isolated the Poliomyelitis virus. The vaccine in about half the cases produces symptoms of a mild attack of Measles. In all cases treated lasting immunity is produced. The vaccine is now being prepared and tried out in this country. What is required is an effective agent which can

be given without any after effects and which will give life long immunity. If measles can be eliminated by vaccination it will confer immeasurable benefits and relief from a disease which causes much suffering, many deaths, numerous complications and great dislocation in the home and school life of the child.

Once again I wish to thank the Clerk, Mr. Skeath, and the members of his staff for their help and advice.

To Mr. N. A. Rogers, the Senior Public Health Inspector, I am particularly indebted for his constant help in enabling me to carry out my duties and to him and Mr. H. J. Rees, the Engineer and Surveyor, for their help in the compilation of this report.

I beg to remain,
Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,
Medical Officer of Health

The figures in brackets are for the year 1959
to enable comparisons to be made

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	9960	(9880)
Births							
Live Births—		<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
Legitimate	...	125	(143)	65	(71)	60	(72)
Illegitimate	...	8	(3)	5	(1)	3	(2)
Still Births—							
Legitimate	...	3	(3)	2	(2)	1	(1)
Illegitimate	...	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid 1960	...	...	...	...	13.3	(14.7)
Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population	...	...	...	...	17.1	(16.5)
Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	22.0	(20.1)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	19.7	(21.0)
Still birth rate per 1000 total population	...	...	...	...	.3	(.3)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total population	...	...	...	...	.34	(.35)

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Legitimate	...	4	(—)	3	(—)
Illegitimate	...	—	(—)	—	(—)
Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births...	30.0	(0)
Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales	21.7	(22.2)
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	32.0	(0)
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	0	(0)

Deaths

		Total		Male		Female
Deaths (all ages) ...	117 (104)	68 (52)	49 (52)			
Death rate per 1000 estimated average population ...	... ... ... ... ...	... ...	12.6 (11.4)			
Death rate for England and Wales for 1000 of population ...	... ... ... ... ...	... ...	11.5 (11.6)			

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year :

CAUSE		Total	Male	F'le
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	... ... ... ...	— — — —	
2. Tuberculosis, other forms of ...	... ... ... ...	— — — —	
3. Syphilitic disease ...	... ... ... ...	— — — —	
4. Diphtheria ...	... ... ... ...	— — — —	
5. Whooping Cough ...	... ... ... ...	— — — —	
6. Meningococcal infection ...	... ... ... ...	— — — —	
7. Acute poliomyelitis ...	... ... ... ...	— — — —	
8. Measles ...	... ... ... ...	— — — —	
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	...	— — — —	
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	... ... ...	3 2 1		
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	... ...	2 2 —		
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	... ... ...	1 — 1		
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	... ... ...	— — —	
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	...	7 3 4		
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	... ... ...	— — —	
16. Diabetes ...	... ... ... ...	— — — —	
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	...	12 4 8		
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	... ... ...	19 10 9		
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	... ... ...	2 — 2		
20. Other heart disease ...	... ... ... ...	12 5 7		
21. Other circulatory disease ...	... ... ... ...	4 3 1		
22. Influenza ...	... ... ... ...	— — — —	
23. Pneumonia ...	... ... ... ...	1 1 —		
24. Bronchitis ...	... ... ... ...	9 7 2		
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	...	2 — 2		
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	... ... ...	— — —	
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	... ... ...	2 1 1		

28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	3	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	31	21	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTAL						117	68	49

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	0	(0)
Other Maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	0	(0)
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	0	(0)

**GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA**

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Health Visitors :

Miss L. Jacks, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
Ashfields Clinic, Platt Avenue, Sandbach
Telephone Sandbach 970.

Miss M. E. Slack, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.I.D.N., H.V.
Ashfields Clinic, Platt Avenue, Sandbach
Telephone Sandbach 970.

A milestone was reached when the new clinic came into operation in October, 1960. The premises have been well planned and very adequately fitted out as well as being tastefully decorated. It is admirably suited to our needs and the County Architects Department are to be congratulated. It must not be forgotten too

the support given by the Clerk and Members of the Council in pressing the case for Sandbach having this much needed Health Clinic.

We are fortunate too in having the continued support of the Voluntary Workers.

Statistics

	New cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Sandbach Welfare Centre	122 (145)	— (—)	— (—)	1890 (2132)	697 (641)	803 (797)	102 (102)	823 (758)	16.1 (14.8)

Special Clinics for under 5

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic	15 (14)	118 (121)	12 (14)	9.8 (8.6)
E.N.T. Clinic	2 (9)	2 (11)	5 (10)	.4 (1.1)

Special Clinics for School Children

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic	110 (102)	698 (752)	35 (35)	19.9 (21.4)
E.N.T. Clinic	11 (49)	21 (68)	5 (10)	4.2 (6.8)

Preparation Class

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Preparation Class	68 (71)	506 (519)	52 (50)	9.7 (10.3)

Welfare Foods Sold - 1960

Distribution Centre	National Full Cream	Dried Milk Half Cream	A. & D. Tablets	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice
Welfare Centre, Sandbach ...	32 (52)	— (—)	— (—)	78 (40)	345 (367)
Council Offices, Sandbach ...	1735 (2148)	14 (14)	777 (764)	434 (542)	3865 (4312)

Midwifery and Home Nursing

Midwifery and home nursing in the town is carried out by the following nurses :

Beatty, M.	5 Coronation Crescent, Sandbach	Sandbach 731
	(full time)	
Hoyle, I. (Mrs.)	9 Offley Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 852
	(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	
Gerrard, E. E.	647 Crewe Road, Wheelock	Sandbach 281
	(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	
Wainwright, M. (Mrs.)	87 Platt Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 256
	(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	

Once again it is satisfactory to report that not a single complaint was received throughout the year.

Every credit is due to these nurses who under the instruction and guidance of the family doctors carry out such valuable work in the homes of the people.

Births

Hospital		Home		Private Nursing Home	
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still
104	5	37	—	—	—
(112)	(2)	(36)	(1)	(—)	(—)

Meals on Wheels

During the year more than 2000 meals were served to old people in the town, and 2500 miles were covered in delivery.

Meals are taken every Tuesday and Thursday including holidays as the service is continuous. We are indebted to Fodens Limited, Elworth for supplying these meals and to the Sandbach Co-operative Society who supplement these when Fodens works are on holiday.

There is a rota of drivers and servers under the leadership of Councillor Mrs. I. Lea, M.B.E. who carry out this well worth-while task faithfully. The value of this service is the contact made and the fact that the members of the W.V.S. help to keep a watchful and sympathetic eye on the old people.

When help is required they are able to contact Doctors, Health Visitors and Nurses, provide clothing if necessary and make themselves generally useful.

It is a fact that once the ladies become interested in this work they get as much pleasure out of doing it as the people who receive the help.

Chiropody

The Chiropody Service has grown very considerably since its inception and it has now been found necessary to reduce the number of treatments after the first 6 monthly treatments to one treatment every two months. However, in exceptional cases where it is necessary for the treatment to be given more frequently your Committee have the power to order this to be done.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Statistics

Diphtheria Immunisation—

Pre-school children	—	(1)
School children	1	(4)
	1	(5)
Reinforcing injections	73	(27)

Whooping Cough Immunisation—

Pre-school children	—	(—)
School children	2	(—)
	2	(—)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus)—

Pre-school children	152	(109)
School children	10	(2)
	162	(111)

Primary Vaccination—

Pre-school children	77	(79)
School children	14	(1)
Adults	1	(3)
	92	(83)

Re-Vaccination—

Pre-school children	2	(—)
School children	4	(1)
Adults	15	(12)
	21	(13)

Public Health Laboratory Service

A new Public Health Laboratory has been opened in Chester which can give us all the services previously obtained from the Monsall Hospital Public Health Laboratory. As Chester is so much more convenient to reach this will be a considerable advantage.

Ambulance and Sitting-Case Car Transport

Considerable progress has been made during the year in providing a new ambulance station alongside the Council Depot. It is hoped that once this is established the ambulance staff will have proper facilities for maintaining the high standard required in the turn-out and appearance of ambulances.

The old ambulances taken over from the British Red Cross Society have now been replaced by one new County Ambulance and two fairly new ambulances of moderate mileage.

Regular servicing and repairs are being carried out at the Congleton Station. It is hoped to participate in the petrol scheme which the Council is considering establishing at their depot.

Ambulance Figures — 1960

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mileages—											
2884	3405	2868	2634	2950	2847	3367	3387	1675	1904	2072	2103
(1352)	(1991)	(585)	(2981)	(2472)	(2969)	(3693)	(3543)	(3217)	(3280)	(3754)	(3743)
Patients—											
375	469	422	330	395	407	429	351	229	264	259	281
(206)	(286)	(75)	(418)	(374)	(403)	(435)	(344)	(443)	(449)	(487)	(465)
Journeys—											
75	94	76	80	86	75	91	107	52	61	69	65
(47)	(57)	(20)	(88)	(76)	(95)	(100)	(100)	(89)	(87)	(104)	(103)

Utilicon Ambulance Figures — 1960

<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Mileages—											
2142	2216	2332	1687	2249	2270	1901	1547	3126	3462	3622	2748
(2853)	(1745)	(3450)	(1506)	(2322)	(2211)	(2423)	(2171)	(2546)	(2639)	(2662)	(1833)
Patients—											
235	202	198	124	212	208	189	128	291	306	383	302
(312)	(178)	(328)	(164)	(236)	(179)	(216)	(192)	(210)	(260)	(198)	(155)
Journeys—											
62	61	66	47	68	66	62	46	91	91	83	74
(95)	(55)	(114)	(44)	(56)	(60)	(58)	(60)	(63)	(68)	(60)	(59)

Domestic Help Service

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in Sandbach during 1960 are as follows :

Home Helps employed during 1960—

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	29	(24)
Casual	...	...	...	...	...	7	(7)
						36	(31)
						—	—

Home Helps employed at December 31st, 1960—

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	19	(10)
Casual	...	...	...	...	...	3	(3)
						22	(13)
						—	—

Applications received during 1960—

Confinement	...	...	...	...	...	2	(2)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	...	8	(5)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	2	(6)
						12	(13)
						—	—

Cases attended during 1960—

Confinement	...	...	...	...	1	(1)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	9	(7)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	(1)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	16	(22)
					—	—
					26	(31)
					—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The district is now supplied with River Dee water from the Board's Treatment Works at Hurleston, which is of moderate hardness.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During 1960 work proceeded on the following schemes :

- (a) Abandonment of the Elworth Sewage Disposal Works, construction of Pumping Station, Pumping Main and Sewers to convey the flow to Hind Heath Sewage Works and the enlargement of the Hind Heath Sewage Works.
- (b) The enlargement of the Sewer between Well Bank and the Old Sandbach Sewage Works and ancillary works in connection therewith.
- (c) Abandonment of the Cookesmere Lane Sewage Works, construction of Pumping Station and Pumping Main and the laying of sewers between Sweettooth Lane and the new Pumping Station.

Housing

Very good progress was made on housing during 1960. The Council completed 45 dwellings including 12 bungalows for aged and/or infirm persons and commenced work on three blocks of three-storey flats, comprising 36 flats.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table gives the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1960

DISEASE	AGE DISTRIBUTION											Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45- over		
Dysentery	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	...	...	—	1	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	6	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	13	1	1	—	—	—	15	—
Whoop. Cough	1	1	—	1	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	9	—

Tuberculosis

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1960 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1951.

Notifications—1951 to 1960

	1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24					1				1		1		1							
25-34	1								1								1		1	
35-44		1															2			
45-54								1												
55-64	1				2								1		1					
65 & over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																			1	
15-24			1	1					1	1							1			
25-34			1		1				1				1		1		1			
35-44					1												1			
45-54																				
55-64																				
65 & over																	1			
TOTAL	3	—	3	2	4	—	5	1	1	—	4	—	5	1	2	—	2	—	—	—

Deaths—1951 to 1960

	1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34	1																			
35-44		1																		
45-54			1										1							
55-64	1		1				1										1			
65 & over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34	1																			
35-44			1																	
45-54																				
55-64	1																			
65 & over																				
TOTAL	5	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—

Cases on Register at December 31st, 1960

	Up to 1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary	—	—	—	2	2	6	4	1	2	17
Female Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	2	2	3	1	—	1	9
Male Non-Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	4
Female Non-Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	4

The following sections of this report have been compiled by the Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. A. Rogers.

Public Health Inspection

Number of Inspections and Visits during 1960	2073
Number of Informal Notices served during 1960	41
Number of Informal Notices complied with during 1960	38
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at 31/12/60...	5
Number of Statutory Notices served during 1960	4
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during 1960	2
Number of Statutory Notices outstanding at 31/12/60...	2

It was not found necessary to resort to Court Proceedings in any instance during the year.

A few years ago the majority of complaints received by the Health Department were in respect of disrepair of tenanted houses, but the emphasis is no longer in that direction. Quite as many complaints are still being received but their character has changed. Intolerance and even malice appear to actuate many of the allegations, and so often this type of complaint is found to be of a frivolous nature and time-wasting for the Official having to investigate it.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

1960 was full of administrative difficulty in this sphere, the factors contributing most to this position being the difficulty in recruiting and retaining a full labour force together with a steady increase in new property development in the area. It is unfortunate, yet understandable, that in a comparatively prosperous area such as this where full employment prevails, men cannot be easily attracted to a job like refuse collection which is dirty, all-weather work, not very well paid, and, above all, work which still provides

a good source of material for music-hall jokes. There are inevitable difficulties in a small Authority which cannot carry reserves of labour or equipment, but the position is severely emphasised in conditions where the basic labour force is constantly below strength.

At the end of the year, in the knowledge that a reduction of the working week to 42 hours was imminent, the Council were seeking the co-operation of the Refuse Collectors in the implementation of some form of incentive bonus scheme which it was hoped would help the workmen to increase their earnings and at the same time speed up the bin collection.

Refuse Disposal

The refuse is still being disposed of by crude tipping at Malkins Bank Tip. At the time of purchasing this land for tipping it was expected that it would accommodate the refuse of the district for many years to come, but a substantial increase in recent years in the amount of rubbish produced is causing the space to be used up so rapidly that it will be necessary within the next few years to seek further land for this purpose.

Supply of Dustbins

The Council does not operate a Dustbin Scheme under Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, but a supply of dustbins is kept for sale on request. 117 properties were supplied in this way.

Conservancy

Pail closets are emptied weekly by Council labour, disposal taking place at the sewage works. 18 houses are thus served and 7 pails from other types of premises are also emptied. It may be mentioned that none of the premises involved in the scheme is so situated as would enable it to be connected to the sewerage system.

Salvage

The net profit for the collection and sale of Salvage during the financial year ended March 31st, 1960 was £121, a reduction of £44 on the previous year. The prospects are that the profits at the end of the current financial year will show a much greater reduction, and the Council will need to consider whether waste-paper separation is any longer a worthwhile proposition.

Despite wage increases and a general rise in the cost of other goods, the price offered for baled mixed waste-paper has remained at £7 per ton since December, 1958. An even greater handicap to the success of the scheme has been the instruction issued by the Paper Mills in August, 1958, to exclude all newspapers and magazines

from the mixed bales. The majority of waste-paper collected from households is in the form of newsprint, yet the merchants were prepared to pay only £3/10/0 per ton for this material baled separately, a price which would not cover the labour involved.

The Council may feel that waste-paper salvage is no longer a sufficiently attractive proposition to warrant the diversion of labour from other services.

The following amounts of salvage were disposed of during 1960:

		£	s	d
Waste-paper—47 tons	...	332	8	10
Cardboard boxes—5853	...	73	3	3
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£405	12	1

Public Conveniences

The sorry tale of malicious damage continues, but over the years it has never yet been possible to apprehend a culprit. In the light of experience in this direction, it may be thought that buildings of this kind would be better sited in open situations where they are in full view of the general public, rather than be modestly tucked away in a back alley.

Rodent Control

A trained Rodent Operator working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector spends approximately half of his time on these duties.

The following treatments were carried out during the year :

Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	108
Agricultural Properties	...	...	...	...	...	100
Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	31
Local Authority Undertakings	...	...	...	...	...	10
						<hr/>
						249

Annual Contracts have been entered into for the treatment by the Council of 15 commercial and 11 agricultural properties, and this scheme appears to work very satisfactorily from all points of view. It is undoubtedly a worthwhile proposition for the factory owner or farmer concerned, for damage and food wastage by rats can cost him very much more than the few pounds spent on prevention.

The sewers throughout the district have been tested for rat infestation and only one small area was found to be affected ; the manholes in this area were duly treated with poisoned bait.

Offensive Trades

There is only one business in the area—bone boiling—which is classed as an Offensive Trade. In view of the nature of the business comparatively little nuisance is created. The firm has entered into an annual agreement with the Council for the destruction of rats.

Moveable Dwellings

In the early part of 1960 there were five caravans on individual licensed sites in the Urban District. In the course of the year the use of two of these sites was discontinued.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 came into force on August 29th, 1960 as a result of which the County Council undertook a general review of the caravan facilities throughout the county in order to determine a policy for controlling, in conjunction with District Councils caravanning activities. This review had not been completed by the end of the year.

Atmospheric Pollution

The Salt Works which have been reported upon in the Annual Reports of the past few years have now completed the installation of mechanical underfeed stokers to all the salt pans. This has undoubtedly brought about a considerable improvement in regard to smoke emission. Smoke is still inevitably produced during the process of lighting-up of the furnaces after being shut down, but thereafter very little smoke is normally emitted.

In contrast to the position of a few years ago, very few complaints of smoke nuisance are received nowadays, and in these instances an abatement of the nuisance is invariably secured without recourse to legal steps. The Clean Air Act of 1956 undoubtedly serves as a much more effective deterrent than did previous legislation on the subject.

The Council have not yet taken any steps towards the establishment of Smoke Control areas.

HOUSING

Unfit Houses

It is pleasing to be able to report much more activity in this sphere. For more than two years it had not been possible to make any real efforts to demolish or close unfit dwellings, as alternative accommodation was not available. With a resumption of Council house building, however, it was then possible to give some attention to this urgent problem.

In March, 1960, the Council at last took decisive action in respect of the group of 22 unfit houses in the Hawk Street area by making a Compulsory Purchase Order. In September a Ministry Inspector held a Public Local Inquiry at which there was an objection in respect of only one of the houses. The Minister's decision on the Order is still awaited.

(a) Individual Houses—

Number of Demolition Orders made	... ... ...	21
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ... ...	7
Number of houses demolished as a result of informal action	... ... ...	1
Number of houses closed in pursuance of undertakings given by owners	... ... ...	1

(b) Clearance Areas

Number of Areas declared during year	... ... ...	—
Number of Orders made during the year	... ... ...	1
Number of houses included in above order	... ... ...	22
Number of houses demolished	... ... ...	—

It was mentioned in last year's Report that the Council had approved a report prepared by the Public Health Inspector listing all the houses within the Urban District which by reason of age, character and structural condition could be considered as having an expected life of not more than 15 years, the list being sub-divided into shorter periods according to the condition of the properties involved. There is no doubt that this information has proved extremely useful to all concerned, and it has come to be accepted by the general public as a tentative programme of housing action contemplated by the Council. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Council will not lose the advantage of this attitude by failing to plan accordingly. Of the 369 houses in the schedule, 72 are listed as having an expected life of not more than 5 years, and, as prospective building land is rapidly passing into the hands of private development firms, it would seem prudent at this stage for the Council to be taking preliminary steps with a view to acquiring further land for their rehousing projects.

Rehousing

The following is a statement of the position with regard to the Register of Applications for tenancies of Council houses at the end of 1960.

Applicants on Waiting List for less than 1 year	109
Applicants on Waiting List between 1 and 2 years ...	29
Applicants on Waiting List between 2 and 3 years ...	10
Applicants on Waiting List over 3 years	2
Total number of "live" applicants on current Register	150

33 Applicants for Council-house tenancies were rehoused during 1960.

In addition to the ordinary register of applications, there were also 65 applicants on the Bungalow waiting-list at the end of 1960, 13 cases having been accommodated during the year.

Repairs

Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action	4
Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of formal action :	
(a) by owners under Public Health Acts	2
(b) by Local Authority under Public Health Acts	—
(c) under Housing Acts	—

Certificates of Disrepair

Number of Applications received	3
Number of Applications approved	*5
Number of Applications withdrawn	—
Number of Applications not approved	—
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	*6
Number of Undertakings given	1
Number of Undertakings accepted	1
Number of Applications for Cancellation of Certificates	6
Number of Applications for Cancellation approved ...	6
Number of Applications for Cancellation rejected ...	—
Number of Objections by Tenants to Cancellation ...	2
Number of Objections not upheld by Council	2

* These figures relate to some applications which were made in the previous year

Improvement Grants

The number of Grants made during 1960 was slightly less than in the previous year. Despite the introduction of the Standard Grant which carries with it much less stringent conditions, the scheme still does not appear to hold any great attraction for landlords. Of the 20 grants approved during the year, 19 were in respect of owner-occupied houses.

It is of interest to note that in the case of those Standard Grants paid during 1960 the actual total amount, based on half the cost of the work in each case, was only 53% of the maximum grants which could have been payable under the Act. In other words, although under the scheme an applicant could spend £310 on providing the five specified amenities, and thus become entitled to the maximum grant of £155, in practice it is found that the expenditure per house is usually about £160, involving a grant of £80.

The introduction of the Standard Grant has simplified the procedure in many ways, but it has also added to the technical anomalies, and a new set of Ministry "Practice Notes" is long overdue.

(a) Discretionary Grants — 1960

Number of Applications received	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Grants approved	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Grants disapproved	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total value of Grants approved	...	...	...	...	...	...	£728

(b) Standard Grants — 1960

Number of Applications received	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of Grants approved	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of Grants disapproved	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total amount of maximum Grants payable	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2125

FOOD

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The Council continued to operate the Public Slaughterhouse at Flatt Lane throughout the year, but meantime various discussions were taking place to decide the future set-up.

The Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959, required each Local Authority to submit to the Minister before November 2nd, 1960, a report as to the adequacy of the slaughtering facilities in its area having regard to the new Slaughtering Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty Regulations. The Council initially became interested in acquiring the ownership of the Public Slaughterhouse, which was the only slaughterhouse operating in the Urban District, but negotiations over its value broke down.

Despite pressure by the butchers and other people making use of the Slaughterhouse for the Council to continue operating the premises as previously, the Council felt that they were not prepared to spend some £2000 required to carry out improvements in accordance with the new Regulations. In coming to this decision they had regard to the fact that only 4 of the 8 butchers in the Urban District made regular use of this slaughterhouse.

Nevertheless, it is not surprising that the decision to relinquish Council control of the Slaughterhouse did not meet with whole-hearted approval. After a great deal of initial hard work and organisation the operation of the Public Slaughterhouse has been making steady and substantial profit for the last two years. The system has also had the distinct advantage of concentrating the slaughtering of the area in one set of premises where the Council has had complete control of the work.

The Council's Report remains to be accepted or amended by the Minister, but already the proposals have led to an application by an individual butcher to license an old slaughterhouse which he proposes to renovate. The local butchers are apprehensive as to what facilities they will be granted when the Public Slaughterhouse is taken over by a private individual. Above all, the Council has during the last few years been able to dictate the administration of the slaughtering in the area. With this control ceded to private enterprise the position could become very difficult in regard to Meat Inspection. The Public Health Inspector has for a long time been hard pressed in this respect, particularly as to inspection outside normal working hours. If the amount of slaughtering is substantially increased, as it might well be when operated for private profit, then the meat inspection could become such a burden as to necessitate the employment of qualified assistance.

Meat Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
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Animals slaughtered and
Inspected 909 1304 78 5100 1374 8765

(There were no horses slaughtered in the Urban District during 1960)

CONDEMNATIONS

All diseases except Tuberculosis:

Whole carcases condemned	1	70	7	2	3	83
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	243	833	6	100	30	1212
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	26%	69%	16%	2%	2%	14%

Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcases condemned	4	10	—	—	1	15
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	48	117	—	—	28	193
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5%	9%	—	—	2%	2%

Thirteen cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were detected during the year.

The number of animal units slaughtered and inspected during 1960 represents a 40% increase over the figures for the previous year.

Analysis in lb. of Condemned Meat

	Beef	Veal	Mutton	Pork
Tuberculosis	9462	—	—	610
Parasites and Cysts ...	8541	—	146	5
Angioma	1572	—	—	—
Dropsy	21156	—	—	433
Moribund	—	—	64	—
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	319	17	—	40
Actinomycosis	349	—	—	—

Abscesses	... ... ...	1595	25	—	79
Septicaemia	... ... ...	2478	163	—	42
Emaciation	... ... ...	128	35	25	—
Immaturity	... ... ...	—	91	—	—
Fever	... ... ...	346	—	—	—
Misc., Injury, etc.	... ...	2822	1	5	161
Tumours	... ... ...	432	—	—	—
		—	—	—	—
		49200	332	240	1370
		—	—	—	—

It is interesting to observe the comparative amounts of beef condemned in the last eight years :

Average amount condemned per Beast Slaughtered

		All Diseases	Tuberculosis only
1953	...	32 lb.	22 lb.
1954	...	23 lb.	15 lb.
1955	...	14 lb.	10 lb.
1956	...	9 lb.	7 lb.
1957	..	9 lb.	6 lb.
1958	...	13 lb.	7 lb.
1959	...	24 lb.	8 lb.
1960	...	22 lb.	4 lb.

The percentage of the number of beasts found to be suffering in any degree with Tuberculosis shows a substantial decrease against the figures for previous years. The statistics for 1960 indicate that the incidence of T.B. in cattle, and the average weight of tuberculous meat per beast slaughtered, are the lowest on record so far as Sandbach is concerned. This is the trend throughout the country and it undoubtedly indicates the success of the Government's Attested Area policy.

There is very good co-operation between the Ministry Veterinary Officers and the Council's Meat Inspector. When a case of Tuberculosis is detected during post-mortem inspection it is reported to the Ministry whose officers trace the infected beast back to the farm and thereby deal with all the contacts.

When T.B.-reactors and contacts are directed by the Ministry for slaughter the local Meat Inspector gives every assistance by locating and reporting upon any tuberculous lesions present in the carcases.

Food Hygiene

It is unfortunate that the regular inspection of food premises, because it is a routine matter, has to be neglected in favour of the many other matters, some much less important, which arise in the Department from day to day. It would be pleasing to think that these routine visits are not necessary because the hygiene of the premises is already beyond reproach, but sporadic inspections indicate very much otherwise.

The Council has continued the policy of reconstructing and adapting stalls in the Market Hall specifically for the sale of food. The existing stalls are not in flagrant breach of the Regulations, but the replacements which are now being constructed are more desirable in every way. Progress is rather slow, but this is necessarily limited on economic grounds.

In the Town Hall, too, where quite an amount of catering is done in connection with public and private functions, the kitchen has been modernised and equipped in such a manner as to set an example to other catering premises.

The number of Food Premises (in broad categories) in the Urban District is as follows :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Public Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Sweet Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Unsound Food

The following unsound foods were condemned upon voluntary surrender at retail stores :

135 tins Meat	...	...	...	...	791½ lb.
233 tins Fruit	...	...	...	...	267½ lb.
67 tins Vegetables	...	...	...	...	51¾ lb.
17 tins Fish	...	...	...	...	9 lb.
9 tins Soup	...	...	...	...	8½ lb.

2 tins Cream	1 lb.
12 tins Fruit Juice	13½ lb.
6 tins Evaporated Milk	3 lb.
2 tins Sago	2 lb.
1 tin Creamed Rice	1 lb.
1 tin Syrup	1 lb.
1 tin Spaghetti	1 lb.
Loose Meat	8 lb.
Bacon	27¾ lb.
6 packs of Butter	3 lb.
	<hr/>
	1188¾ lb.

Milk

The legal functions with regard to licensing of dealers were by way of the Milk Special Designations Regulations, 1960, transferred to the County Council as from January 1st, 1961.

It is suggested that the District Councils have not lost any standing by the transfer of these responsibilities, for in the vast majority of cases the renewal of the licences was almost automatic ; and there are many who feel that annual licensing to permit the sale of designated milk in sealed containers is creating unnecessary paper-work.

The position in December, 1960, with regard to Registration and Licensing was as follows :

Registered Dairies	3
Registered Distributors	9
Dealers' Licences to sell Sterilised Milk ...	6
Dealers' Licences to sell T.T. Milk ...	9
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk ...	9
Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk ...	3
Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk ...	3
Supplementary Licences for T.T. Milk ...	3

Ice-Cream

Fifty-eight premises are registered by the Local Authority for the sale of Ice-Cream. Only wrapped ice-cream was sold from these premises and no ice-cream is known to have been manufactured in the district during the year.

Other Registered Premises

Fourteen premises are registered by the Local Authority under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation of cooked meats, etc. and ten premises are registered for fish frying.

Factories

The following table indicates the position for 1960 :

Particulars	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	13	10	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	74	46	—	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	17	37	3	—
TOTAL ...	104	93	3	—

The three written notices indicated in the above table all involved unsuitable and defective sanitary conveniences, two concerned with house-building sites and one with works of sewer installation.

In a number of other instances verbal requests have secured the remedy of similar unsatisfactory conditions. An effort has been made to raise what has been, in this area, a very low standard of sanitary accommodation provided for workmen on building sites. It is surprising in these days when the "workers" have so much influence in industry that they will tolerate some of the unsightly, uncomfortable and unhygienic toilet contraptions provided temporarily for their use. In conversation with workmen in these circumstances they will invariably maintain that they do not use the unsatisfactory accommodation provided, but they are reluctant to admit what alternative arrangements are chosen : therein lies the danger.

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